

AUTHOR	<i>Anastasiya Yu. Lipova</i> — PhD Candidate at the Chair of International Security, School of World Politics, Lomonosov Moscow State University (e-mail: stasiawaris@gmail.com).
TITLE	MAN AGAINST MACHINE: DEBATES IN THE EXPERT COMMUNITY ON THE LETHAL AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS
SUMMARY	<p>In the recent years debates surrounding the autonomous weapons systems development and regulation have gained a new momentum. Despite the fact that the development of such type of weapons continues since the twentieth century, recent technological advances open up new possibilities for development of completely autonomous combat systems that will operate without human intervention. Thus, humanity is approaching a qualitatively new stage in its development, when human operators may be excluded from the decision-making process during combat operations, including decisions on the use of lethal force. In this context, international community faces a number of ethical, legal, and regulatory issues. This paper examines the ongoing debates in both the Western and the Russian expert community on the challenges and prospects for using lethal autonomous systems. The author notes that Russian and Western discourses on most of the issues have very much in common and differences are found mainly in the intensity of debates — in the West they are much more active. In both cases the most active debates focus around two issues: the potential implications of fully autonomous weapons systems including the unclear line of accountability, and the prospects for international legal regulation of the use of lethal autonomous weapons. These discussions are compounded by the controversy around the development of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and maintenance of meaningful human control over autonomous weapons systems. The majority of experts acknowledge a potentially destabilizing impact of lethal autonomous systems on international relations in general and the strategic stability in particular. Both the Russian and the Western experts also agree that the contemporary international humanitarian law is unable to handle the challenges posed by aggressive development of the lethal autonomous weapons. All this points to the need to adapt the international humanitarian law to the new realities, which, in turn, requires concerted actions from leading states and international organizations.</p>
KEY WORDS	lethal autonomous weapons, international humanitarian law, accountability, situational awareness, artificial intelligence, international security, strategic stability.